**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“O Day Full of Grace” ELW 627**



**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**First Reading**    **Acts 2:1-21**

A reading from Acts.

1When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.  
  5Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”  
  14But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:  
 17‘In the last days it will be, God declares,  
 that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
  and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
 and your young men shall see visions,  
  and your old men shall dream dreams.  
 18Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
  in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
   and they shall prophesy.  
 19And I will show portents in the heaven above  
  and signs on the earth below,  
   blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20The sun shall be turned to darkness  
  and the moon to blood,  
   before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.  
 21Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

24How manifold are your | works, O Lord!  
  In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.  
 **25Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y to number,  
  living things both | small and great.**  
 26There go the ships | to and fro,  
  and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.  
 **27All of them | look to you  
  to give them their food | in due season.**   
 28You give it to them; they | gather it;  
  you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.  
**29When you hide your face, | they are terrified;  
  when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their dust.**  
 30You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;  
  and so you renew the face | of the earth.  
**31May the glory of the Lord en- | dure forever;  
  O Lord, rejoice in | all your works.**   
 32You look at the earth | and it trembles;  
  you touch the mountains | and they smoke.  
**33I will sing to the Lord as long | as I live;  
  I will praise my God while I | have my being.**  
 34May these words of | mine please God.  
  I will rejoice | in the Lord.  
**35bBless the Lord, | O my soul.  
  Hal- | lelujah!**

**Second Reading**  **Romans 8:22-27**

A reading from Romans.

22We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; 23and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? 25But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.  
  26Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 27And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia**

**Gospel** **John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] 26“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. 27You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.  
 16:4b“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. 7Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9about sin, because they do not believe in me; 10about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; 11about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.  
  12“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

15All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading” ELW 401**



**cREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**prayers of Intercession**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit’s creative work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of love, fill this congregation with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you. You may receive your communion elements.

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED TODAY:**

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Jolene Griffin**

**Trustee: Dan Zylstra**

**Offering Counters: Jerry Engle & Carlotta Willard**

**Safety Person: Diane Griffin**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* + **A class** is being held for those interested in understanding the Lutheran faith and may be interested in becoming members of Zion. The next class will be held this Wed. May 28 at 10:30 AM in the fireside room. If interested, please let Pastor Becky know.
  + **Thank you** to everyone who contributed to our Manna's Market special collection. We have received so very many needed bathroom items that will help many in our community. We are thankful that Jayne Flanigan is here today to tell us what has been happening at the Market. We are also thankful that Thrivent Financial provided Jerry Engle with a $250.00 grant to purchase some of the supplies. All the supplies will be taken to the Market this week. All who have contributed are part of Zion's Action Team. We are all blessed to be able to share with our community.
  + **Greeters:** It is good news that we are at a point where we can resume having a greeter inside the church. At this time, we plan to have one greeter who will be located in the Narthex area. Watch for the list of greeters in the June newsletter. If you are unable to serve as a greeter on your assigned day, please trade with someone on the schedule to ensure we have a greeter each Sunday.
  + **The Board of Education and Youth** needs a few more people to help plan Christian education for our children, youth, and adults as we look to resume Christian education in the fall. Please consider volunteering to help with this important work of the church. See Pastor Becky or Jolene Griffin to volunteer or for more information.
  + **Church Clean Up Day:**  Mark your calendar for June 5th (June 12th rain date) and plan to help clean up the outside grounds of the church. Clean up will start at 10 AM. Bring your rakes, trimmers, and garden tools to help weed around the church, trim shrubs and trees, rake where needed, and other lawn maintenance needs. We are also looking for someone willing to bring a power washer for the deck and front steps of the parsonage.
  + **Boiler Replacement:** We have received enough yes votes that we are able to move forward with the boiler replacement. Thank you to all that responded.
  + **Boards and Committees:** Council is encouraging boards and committees to resume meeting and working on plans for their respective areas. Council is also encouraging all boards and committees to designate a contact person for Council to reach out to when needed. When meeting, remember that social distancing and mask requirements are still place.

**Save the Date.  Plan to Attend**:

* May 23 – Manna’s Market Donations Given and Volunteer Recognition Sunday
* June 5 (or 12) – Outside Clean-up day at Zion
* June 6 – End of the School Year “Summer Celebration”
* July 18 - Semi-Annual Mtg.
* August 22 - Zion's 165 Birthday Party
* September 4 - Woodland Labor Day Games.  Workers needed

**Covid Safeguards for the coming months**

* May:  Continue requiring masks for all.  Sing the last hymn with masks on.  Resume passing the peace with people standing and talking/waving from their pew.  Discontinue one-way aisles in sanctuary (remove tape from floor and signs on doors).
* June:  Masks required to walk to pew, then those who are fully vaccinated may remove mask.   Masks required for unvaccinated.  It is on the honor system.  Resume bringing offering to front with music.   Resume singing hymns.  Put masks on to sing hymns.